

POWERS CASE IS CRITICIZED

To 2 Senators At Briefing,
U-2 Pilot Is Not A Hero

By HOWARD NORTON
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, March 7—To at least two senators who attended the secret briefing on the U-2 flight yesterday morning, Francis Gary Powers is no hero.

And to at least one member of the House Armed Services Committee, which also got a secret briefing, the whole Powers' story, as released to the public "gets into the realm of fantasy."

One of the dissenting senators, Senator Case (R., S.D.) today voiced strong "regret" that Powers told the Russians he was "sorry."

"A Lot Of Propaganda"

"They made a lot of propaganda out of that," he said.

"International spying is not nice business at best, but a man who served in the Air Force five years, became an officer and later hired out at \$30,000 a year to fly over the territory of another country with special cameras knows what he is doing," Case added.

Powers's statement that, to the best of his knowledge, "the weather seemed the only thing that concerned those who told him when to take off," points up the need for better coordination between the CIA and other branches of the Government, Case declared in a public statement.

"With one ill-timed incident, months of effort by President Eisenhower to illuminate world hopes for peace went glimmering."

Another Comments

Another prominent Senator who heard all the classified details from John A. McCone, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, indicated that he not only agrees with Case, but feels that the handling of the whole Powers case was a disgrace.

He characterized the public hearings of the U-2 flier as having been "staged" and predicted that the country hasn't heard the last of it.

Because he was pledged to secrecy in the CIA briefing, he would not elaborate on this charge nor permit the use of his name.

But on the House side of the

Capitol, Representative Becker (R., N.Y.), a member of the powerful Armed Services Committee, felt limited under his own restrictions.

"We traded a great Russian spy for a mere pilot," he snapped. "And the country gets no good given all the facts and not just a whitewash to make the trade look good."

"The Realm Of Fantasy"

Brushing aside the CIA's solemn declaration that Powers carried out the terms of his contract to the letter, Becker remarked:

"We don't know this. How could we know? We haven't seen the contract."

Again, referring to Powers's story of why he failed to destroy the plane and its equipment, his explanation of the difficulty he had getting out of the craft and his punishment over whether the plane was actually hit and over the source of the "orange glow" after he started to fall, Becker added:

"All of this gets into the realm of fantasy. Any pilot worth his salt knows whether his plane is hit, and he knows how to get out of his plane."

"If Powers's contract didn't call for destroying the plane, why did it have two separate destruct devices?"

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